

#### **4. Remarks**

Claims 1-20 were originally filed. The Examiner has rejected claims 1-6, 8-17, 19, and 20, but found claims 7 and 18 allowable if rewritten in independent form. The applicant has amended claims 1, 6, and 12, and has cancelled claims 5, 7, 16-18, and 20. No new claims have been added.

##### ***A. Declaration***

The Examiner has objected to the declaration because the declaration indicates that applicant is a "joint inventor." A new declaration executed by the inventor is attached hereto.

##### ***B. Drawings***

The Examiner has objected to the drawings in that the hook and loop fasteners, the plurality of covers, the plurality of handles, second vertical groove, and second vertical strap must be shown or the corresponding claim(s) cancelled. Figures 2, 3, and 4 have been amended to show the hook and loop fasteners. No new matter has been added. Claim 17 has been cancelled, and thus the applicant asserts that the requirement of showing the second vertical groove and second vertical strap is now moot. With respect to the plurality of covers and handles, the applicant notes that these elements are, as explained in the specification, part of a system of interchangeable parts, and thus it would not be practical to show multiple covers and handles with respect to the same purse. The purpose for having multiple interchangeable covers and handles is to allow the user to change the color or style of the purse without the necessity of moving

all of the purse's contents to a new purse, also as explained in the specification. The applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider this requirement.

The Examiner has also objected to the drawings in that features 18, 24, 26, and 30 do not appear to be identified. Features 18, 24, and 30 are no longer referenced in the specification as amended. Feature 26 is shown in the amended drawing sheets. No new matter has been added.

*C. Specification*

The Examiner has objected to the specification in that the description regarding member 38 does not correspond with Figure 4. Figure 4 has been amended. No new matter has been added.

*B. Claim Rejections—35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103*

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-6, 8-17, 19, and 20 based on the prior art, but has found claims 7 and 18 allowable if rewritten in independent form. Independent claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 7 and intervening claim 5, and the applicant therefore asserts that amended claim 1, and all dependent claims, are now allowable. Similarly, independent claim 12 has been rewritten to include the limitations of claim 18 and intervening claim 16, and the applicant therefore asserts that amended claim 12, and all dependent claims, are now allowable. (The applicant notes that the limitations of intervening claim 17 were not included in amended claim 12, but it appears that this limitation

was not critical to the Examiner's finding that claim 18 was allowable.) The remaining independent claim, claim 20, has been cancelled.

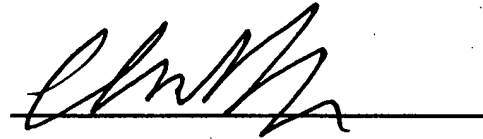
*E. Conclusion*

With the amendments made herein and for the reasons provided above, the applicant asserts that all claims in the application are allowable, and reconsideration and allowance is therefore requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Reg. No. 41,715  
Telephone: (501) 371-0808  
Facsimile: (501) 376-9442  
Customer No.: 47990

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Charles Dougherty", is written over a horizontal line.

J. Charles Dougherty  
Wright, Lindsey & Jennings LLP  
200 W. Capitol Avenue  
Suite 2300  
Little Rock, AR 72201-3699